

## Coronavirus Update.1.

Over the first period of lockdown we were able to support a lot of people in our community on both a practical and emotional level, by providing

- hot meals,
- weekly mailings with information, quizzes, competitions,
- colouring activities and the weekly Sparkle

We kept the office staffed and took requests for shopping, medication and library books to be collected and delivered.

We established a phone buddy system whereby people were contacted regularly to ensure their needs were being met.

We had a small weeding and tidying project.

We acknowledged VE day with competitions, asking people to create designs on a teacup and writing their memories of VE day.

98 people accepted our offer of growing a tomato plant – an effort subsidized by deliveries of larger plant pots and more compost as time went on.

We kept various art and craft activities going, at all levels, at both competition and simple enjoyment levels.

We were able, thanks to a skilled volunteer, to produce bird tables for those who wanted to feed and watch the birds.

We have given out information about various hot lines and mental health resources.

At the end of the first lockdown we moved into a different phase, encouraging people to come out, in groups of six, and meet together for afternoon tea. Social distancing was observed and, wherever possible we met outdoors using newly purchased gazebos.

None of this could have happened without the support of grants and we were very grateful to our Town Council, Comic Relief, Cornwall Community Foundation, the Masonic Foundation and the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, this latter distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund and originating from the government.

## Coronavirus Update 2.

The second stage of our work during the pandemic has been just as busy albeit slightly different. It had become apparent to us that we were responding to an increasing number of people, many of whom wanted to remain involved with The Oasis Centre once lockdown was over. We did not have the room to do this in our existing premises in St. Columb so we needed to look for new premises. These were found in St. Eval where the Community Centre offered to house us in more space and with the benefit of a commercial kitchen. Transport is provided for those who need it. As we are classified as a support network we are subject to slightly different guidelines with regard to coronavirus. We are able to have fifteen people meeting at a time, socially distanced, plus helpers. This meant that we could resume our lunch club with three groups of five each in a different room, and add other activities before and after the meal.

We are now planning Christmas, and I cannot stress how much this means to our members, and how it is only possible with the help of our funders. To ensure that everyone gets their Christmas dinner we are opening on Wednesdays and Thursdays in December providing activities in the morning, a Christmas lunch with all the trimmings and a quiz in the afternoon. For those unable to attend, we are providing the meal by home delivery.

In the meantime there has been a lot of work going on outside the building where we are creating an allotment, with raised beds, a garden, BBQ area and a polytunnel again with raised areas for planting and potting up etc. There is also a Men's Shed which we have been promising to have for some time. All the groundwork is now finished and we can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you so much to those who have made this possible.